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GENERAL

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1. Embassy Moscow views on recognition of Communist China--US Ambassador Kirk in Moscow has again expressed the view that, although hasty recognition of the Chinese Communist regime should be avoided, US policy should contemplate establishment of diplomatic relations as the situation develops. In support of postponing recognition, Kirk points out that: (a) important areas of China still remain outside Communist control; (b) the USSR has not yet questioned the authority of Chinese Nationalist representatives at the UN General Assembly; and (c) US recognition at this time, in the light of previous public statements, could be interpreted as acquiescence to British and other pressures. The ambassador adds that indefinite delay in extending recognition would "cede increasing initiative to Soviet policy" in China and suggests that the Baguio Conference (scheduled for early 1950), or a similar meeting of the free peoples of Southeast Asia, might provide the best occasion for simultaneous eastern and western recognition of the Chinese Communist regime.

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2. British military views on Far East--The US Military Attache in London transmits the opinion of the British Army Staff Chief, who recently returned from a Far East tour, that although the presence of British troops at Hong Kong stopped the Chinese Communists at the border, greater danger will arise when Communist armies reach the Indochinese frontier. The Army Staff Chief estimates that the Chinese Communist armies will reach the Indochinese border in about four months and expresses the view that the French deserve US and British support in their difficult position in Indochina.

Document No. 034

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S 0

Auth: BDA Memo, 4 Apr 77  
BDA REG. 77/1763

Date: 15 MAR 1978 By:

25X1

DIA and DOS review(s)  
completed.

TOP SECRET